



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Michael Butsch et al. Confirmation No.: 7784

Serial No. : 09/890,715

Filed : December 31, 2001

TC/A.U. : 3731

Examiner : Daniel J. Davis

Docket No. : 01-407

Customer No.: 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 5 of this paper.